

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, re-examination and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.116, and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

Independent claims 24, 31 and 38 have been amended pursuant to an agreement reached with Examiner Hamilton during an interview held on April 15, 2005 with Applicants' Representative. Support for the amendments made be found for example, on page 35, lines 10-18 and page 47, line 14 to page 48, line 19 of the specification. Claims 24-44 remain pending in this application. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the courtesy and helpful suggestions of Examiner Hamilton in resolving the issues raised in the Final Rejection.

Claims 24-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for the reasons discussed in paragraph (3) on pages 2-7 of the Final Rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are requested in view of the above amendments and for at least the following reasons.

Respectfully, Applicants believe that those of ordinary skill in this art, upon reviewing the present disclosure, would clearly be apprised of the scope and content of the present claims. The resists of the invention are prepared by heating the compositions recited in the claims to cross-link and insolubilize the resultant film; page 35, lines 10-14. Upon subsequent irradiation, an acid is generated which cleaves the cross-linked structure and solubilizes the film (page 35, lines 14-21). The present amendments are intended to clarify that the claimed resists result from heating the specified compositions.

Examiner Hamilton agreed that the presently amended claims overcome the §112 rejection and are in allowable condition. Accordingly, entry of the Amendment and a prompt allowable are respectfully requested.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (703) 838-6683 at her earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: April 20, 2005

By: George F. Lesmes
George F. Lesmes
Registration No. 19,995

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620